



Communities  
In Schools

Washington

## COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF WASHINGTON

1010 South 336th Street, Suite 205  
Federal Way, WA 98003

P: (253) 248-1991

info@ciswa.org  
www.ciswa.org

### STATE DIRECTOR

Susan Richards

### MISSION

Our mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

### GOALS

- Help students overcome barriers to success so they can stay in school and graduate on time.
- Ease the burden on teachers by providing support for struggling students.

### STATE BOARD

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## COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF WASHINGTON

### Brief History

Communities In Schools came to Washington in 1991 at the urging of local business and education leaders. They were concerned about the growing burden on public schools and increasing number of dropouts. Communities In Schools offered a solution with its comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective strategy for helping kids succeed in school and graduate on time.

With support from major employers, Communities In Schools of Washington took root and now operates in 150 schools in 12 communities: Auburn, Federal Way, Kent, Lakewood, Orting, Peninsula, Puyallup, Renton, Seattle, Spokane County, Tacoma, and Whatcom County.

### What We Do

Communities In Schools of Washington, part of the nation's leading dropout prevention organization, works within public schools to bring struggling students the resources they need to succeed.

What sets us apart is our site coordination model. Communities In Schools staff coordinates existing community services and volunteers to offer case-managed interventions for kids at greatest risk of dropping out, as well as school-wide prevention services.

Of all organizations working toward student achievement, only Communities In Schools is proven to decrease dropout rates and boost on-time graduation rates.

### Fundraising Events

#### Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction

March 15, 2014

[www.ciswa.org/events](http://www.ciswa.org/events)

Fortune tellers, stilt walkers, beads, and masks: The Communities In Schools of Washington state office puts a festive twist on fundraising at the annual Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction. This party with a purpose helps struggling students overcome barriers to success and graduate to a brighter future.

Show your support for "getting to graduation" as a sponsor of this event. Opportunities range from \$1,000 to \$25,000. For details contact Chuck Tiernan, [chuck@ciswa.org](mailto:chuck@ciswa.org).

## Corporate Giving Opportunities

### Volunteer Opportunities

Sign up online at [www.ciswa.org](http://www.ciswa.org) to join the nearly 2,000 volunteers who share their time and talent with Communities In Schools and our students.

- For just one hour a week, you can mentor or tutor a student in need.
- Share your skills helping with a committee, supply drive, or special event.
- Be an advocate and reach out to elected representatives about the value of our dropout prevention work.
- Serve on a Communities In Schools board to help guide the organization.

### Outcomes

Last year we helped nearly 46,000 Washington students take steps toward a brighter future. Of those referred for intensive services:

- 98% of secondary students stayed in school
- 92% of seniors graduated
- 79% improved academic performance
- 73% improved attendance

### Contact

**Susan Richards**

State Director

(253) 248-1991  
[susan@ciswa.org](mailto:susan@ciswa.org)

### Donations

As a corporate leader, you value a good return on investment. So do we. That's why Communities In Schools National asked an economic modeling firm to make sure we measure up. The results: Every \$1 invested in Communities In Schools to help students stay in school creates \$11.60 of economic benefit when these students graduate and contribute to their communities.

Please consider making a donation at [www.ciswa.org](http://www.ciswa.org). Your investment will help more young people graduate to better opportunities—and build a stronger community for all.

### Sponsorships

We are always eager to explore opportunities to put your community-minded business in the spotlight as a sponsoring partner. Your business benefits from increased visibility and alliance with a leading dropout prevention organization, and Washington kids benefit from expanded services and resources to help them overcome challenges in and out of the classroom.

Current opportunities include event and advertising sponsorships. For more information, contact Chuck Tiernan, [chuck@ciswa.org](mailto:chuck@ciswa.org).



Photo by Christina Klas Photography